

# The Southeast News

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MAY 1964

## Convention Turns Down Proposed Reorganization

By a vote of 86 to 75 the delegates of the annual meeting of the Southeast Convention turned down the proposed plan to bring together the Negro and white Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Churches in the southeast area in one administrative body.

The plan, which called for the Negro and Evangelical and Reformed churches to seek membership in the Southeast Convention for the purpose of forming a United Church Conference, was presented on Saturday afternoon of the two-day sessions, April 25-26.

Following spirited discussion by the delegates, the plan was defeated by the narrow margin of eleven votes. However, on Sunday morning the delegates adopted a resolution calling on the board of directors of the convention to restudy the matter and bring it back to the 1965 annual meeting for consideration.

The delegates to the annual sessions, the best attended in recent years, elected Rev. Harold C. Henderson, pastor of the new United Church in Montgomery, Alabama, moderator for the coming year. Rufus G. Obrecht, layman of the Pilgrim Church, Chattanooga, was chosen moderator-elect. Continued in office were the recording secretary, Mrs. A. D. Harry, Lanett, Alabama, and the treasurer, W. J. Strickland, Atlanta, Georgia.

In the keynote address, Dr. Ray Gibbons, director of the Council for Christian Social Action of the United Church, indicated the need for Christians to be concerned about national and world affairs. He gave particular attention to the problem of poverty. The Southeast Convention covers part of the Appalachian region which has been designated an area of particular need.

Mr. Milton Van Manen, a layman of the United Church from New Orleans, represented the Executive Council of



MRS. EDWARD L. ASKREN

the United Church at the sessions. He reminded the delegates of the urgent need to support the mission work of the denomination through Our Christian World Mission.

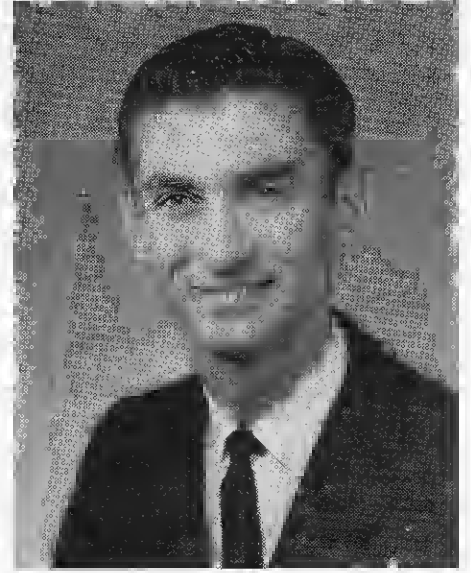
W. Pressley Ingram, moderator of the convention from Birmingham, Ala., presided over the sessions. Reports were given by the various standing committees of the convention.

Dr. Walter A. Graham, president of Southern Union College, Wadley, Ala., reported for the college, which is related to the convention, and requested the churches to continue and increase their financial support of the institution.

Approximately 250 delegates and visitors were in attendance at the sessions held on Saturday.

The sessions were held in Pilgrim Congregational Church, Chattanooga. The host church had planned carefully and carried out their plans efficiently and graciously to make sure the wants and needs of those in attendance were met. Rev. Arnold Slater is pastor of the church.

The 1965 annual meeting of the convention will be held on Saturday and Sunday, April 24-25, at Central Congregational Church, Atlanta, Ga.



MR. MILLARD FULLER

## Lay Life And Work Group Holds Annual Banquet

Approximately 190 lay members and ministers attended the Saturday night banquet at the annual sessions of the convention. The banquet was sponsored by the Lay Life and Work organizations of the convention.

Featured speaker for the occasion was Mrs. Emily Lester, secretary for the Southern Region for the council for Lay Life and Work of the United Church.

Following the banquet the Women's Fellowship and the Churchmen's Fellowship held separate business sessions.

The churchmen elected Millard Fuller, Montgomery, Ala., president; Willie McGill, Lanett, Ala., vice-president; Fred Powell, Tallahassee, Ala., secretary and treasurer.

The Women's Fellowship elected officers last year for 2-year terms. Mrs. Edward L. Askren Jr., Atlanta, is president, Miss Dora C. Brackin, Headland, Ala., is secretary, and Mrs. Claude Pendergrass, Hixson, Tenn. is treasurer.



REV. CLYDE C. FLANNERY

## Rev. Clyde C. Flannery Takes New Position

The Rev. Clyde C. Flannery, pastor of the Brookmeade United Church, Nashville, Tenn., for the past eight years, has resigned to accept a position on the staff of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ.

The resignation will take effect July 1. Mr. Flannery will be responsible for work with adults in his new position. Dr. Harry W. Bredeweg is the Conference Executive of the new conference which is composed fundamentally of the former Evangelical and Reformed Churches of the South Indiana Synod and the former Congregational Christian Churches of the Indiana Conference.

Mr. Flannery has served as moderator of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference and was moderator-elect of the Southeast Convention at the time of his resignation. He has served on numerous committees of the convention and was a director for several years of the Council for Christian Social Action of the denomination.

After serving the church in Langdale, Ala., for several years, Mr. Flannery was elected president of The Southern Union College, Wadley, Ala. In 1956 he was called to the Brookmeade Church, which then was a new church project.

Rev. and Mrs. Flannery and their three daughters, Maureen, Jennifer, and Madeline, will make their new home in Indianapolis, Indiana, which is headquarters for the conference.

## Congregational Christian Library Seeks To Serve

In the chapel of Old South Church on Washington Street, Boston, the Congregational Library Association was organized May 25, 1853. The founders were dedicated to the task of gathering and preserving books, pamphlets, and manuscripts related to the Pilgrims and early Congregationalism, that they might not be destroyed or "scattered among irreverent heirs."

By the end of the 19th century, untiring efforts resulted in the building of the Congregational House at 14 Beacon Street. The Congregational Library, which occupies space on the 2nd and 3rd floors, has one of the largest and finest collections on Congregationalism to be found anywhere. Resources today number approximately 100,000 books and 100,000 pamphlets, sermons and tracts. These include, in addition to writings on Congregational history and polity, the following: Archives of the National Council and General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches; Congregational Councils; histories of local churches; town histories; theological works of the 16th and 17th centuries; Bibles, hymnals, and modern theological works. Of particular value is the large collection of the works by Richard, Increase and Cotton Mather. Purchases include new books published in America and England in the fields of religion and theology, especially. Books in other fields, history, literature, biography, social problems, etc., are also part of the resources.

All but rare books are available to anyone interested in borrowing them, either at the library or by writing for them, with no restriction on the number of books that may be borrowed at a time. There is no charge for the privilege of using these resources.

The library is supported by its founding body, the American Congregational Association. Individuals, churches, associations, and state conferences contribute to the work of this Congregational organization. A bulletin, published three times a year, lists the new books purchased. This is available without charge to readers and to all who request it. To receive books by mail, simply send a postcard or letter giving author and title or subject of books. For further information, please write the Librarian, Room 207, 14 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass. 02108.



REV. BILL HODNETT

## Church Builders Club Elects New Officers

The annual meeting of the Church Builders Club was held during the sessions of the Southeast Convention at Chattanooga, Tenn., April 26.

Rev. Bill Hodnett, pastor of the Bethel Church, West Point, Ga., was elected president to succeed Mr. Fred D. Powell, who presided over the meeting.

Elected vice-president was Rev. Warner Noles, pastor of First Church, Phenix City, Ala. Mr. Rufus G. Obrecht, layman of Chattanooga is the new secretary and Rev. Warren Blankenhorn, former pastor of the Russell Woods Church, Phenix City, and now with Goodwill Industries, Columbus, Ga., is the treasurer.

The membership voted the young church at Huntsville Ala., to be the next project of the club. In the near future members of the churches of the Southeast Convention will be given the opportunity to contribute \$5 to the fund that will be given to the church to help its building fund. Rev. W. Raymond Berry is the pastor of the Huntsville Church, which is a new church project of the convention and the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries.

The Church Builders Club was organized to give the members of the established churches of the convention the opportunity to share more directly in the building of new churches within the convention area. Every church member is urged to participate.

## United Church Continues To Stress Role Of Laity And Lay Life And Work

LAITY will be a key word in counsels of the United Church of Christ in 1964.

In projecting the future of the United Church, President Ben Mohr Herbster calls for an end to the old "division of labor" in which the congregation feels it has done its share of the work of the church by paying the minister.

"The whole work of the church rests on everyone of us," Dr. Herbster says. "We have been talking about the 'universal priesthood of all believers' for 400 years, about the 'ministry of the laity' for at least 20. The time has come to prove that we believe what we say."

A major step in 1963 toward strengthening lay witness in the United Church was completion of the organization of the Council for Lay Life and Work under the directorship of Miss Helen Huntington Smith. The Council has embarked on a program for vigorous lay participation in the whole mission of the church. The easy-going social club patterns of the past are breaking up. The new look calls for able, informed men and women who are willing to stand up and be counted as Christians in the market place.

The Council for Lay Life and Work is sponsoring this year the Family Thank Offering as an "over and above" gift of gratitude from United Church members and their families to the work of Our Christian World Mission in this country and around the world. In its Winter Packet, the Stewardship Council introduces a new Family Thank Offering Booklet prepared by the Council under the direction of the executive secretary, the Rev. Dr. Sheldon E. Mackey.

Predicting great changes in Protestantism in the years ahead, the Rev. Dr. Truman B. Douglas, executive vice-president of the Board for Homeland Ministries, declares, "The future will belong increasingly to those churches that are basically organized to give genuine responsibility to their laymen and women and to develop a laity that is instructed concerning its Christian responsibility."

### LAITY CARRY "MISSION" ABROAD

A new project to give increased responsibility to the laity was announced

in 1963 by the Rev. Dr. Alford Carleton, executive vice-president of the Board for World Ministries.

The Board is seeking to enroll men and women of the denomination who live and work overseas in a new kind of mission. They will be asked "to make their Christian faith count" in contacts with peoples of the countries where they live. The first of several informal training institutes for laity in Japan was held in September.

A new television series on Christian Ethics will be directed primarily to laymen. Authorized by the General Synod in 1963, it will be produced in 1964 by the Rev. Dr. Everett C. Parker, director of the Office of Communication. The series of 13 shows to be conducted by the Rev. Dr. Roger Shinn, professor at Union Seminary and president of the Board for Homeland Ministries, will deal with such subjects as technology and the econo-

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Rev. and Mrs. N. A. Long, now retired and living at Midland City, Alabama, but still active, observed their 50th wedding anniversary last November. They are pictured above with their sons and daughter and their respective wives and husbands.

Front row, l to r: Rev. Herbert Long, Neil Long, Rev. N. A. Long, Mrs. Long, Mrs. Grace Long Davis, Max Long.

Second row: Mrs. Herbert Long, Mrs. Samuel Long, Mrs. Neil Long, Mrs. John L. Long, Mrs. N. A. Long Jr., Mrs. Max Long.

Third row: Samuel H. Long, John L. Long, N. A. Long Jr., Hillie D. Davis, Mrs. Charles U. Long, Charles U. Long.

## ! NOTICE !

All of our churches and ministers are urged to contact servicemen from their churches serving in Europe to inform them of the following meeting.

There will be a Retreat for Servicemen at Berchtesgaden, Germany, July 13-17, 1964. It is for all servicemen and their families as well as for the chaplains of our denomination.

Dr. Ben M. Herbster, president of the United Church, and Dr. Gerald Jud, secretary for Evangelism of the United Church, will be among the leaders. Please write your service families!

my, vocation, law, race, psychology, sex and the family, population and international affairs.

The role of the laity will be of prime importance, in the denomination-wide emphasis on "The Church and Urbanization" in 1964 and 1965. In preparation for this biennial emphasis a national committee headed by a lay woman, Mrs. Dorothy S. Hackett, has set to work developing studies and projects to be undertaken by all parts of the United Church from local congregations to national boards and agencies.

## THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

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### STAFF

Rev. Jas. H. Lightbourne, Jr. Editor

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## Superintendent's Corner

The Twelfth Annual Meeting of the convention was one of the most interesting and best attended in its history.

From all reports the delegates and visitors were impressed by the gracious and efficient manner in which the host church, Pilgrim Congregational, entertained the convention and by the excellent and fair way in which the moderator, W. Pressley Ingram, presided over the sessions and steered the meeting through the agenda.

Of course the greatest interest revolved around the proposal to bring together the churches of our fellowship in this area into one administrative organization. The delegates voted down the proposed plan 86-75. However, it was also voted by the delegates to consider the proposition again next year.

Already a number of people have asked me why it is necessary that the matter should come up again since it was voted down this year.

The answer to me seems two-fold. First, it is increasingly obvious that the major Protestant and other Christian bodies in this country are convinced that divisions in the church on the basis of racial differences are contrary to the Christian gospel. This is the position of our own denomination. It is becoming the view of more and more of the church people and churches of the Southeast Convention. As a convention and as church people we must continue to face up to this problem and opportunity.

Second, it is also obvious that the day is almost at hand when the convention and its churches can no longer be a part of our national fellowship of Congregational Christian and United Church of Christ Churches unless we

## HERE AND THERE

### Rev. Frank R. Snavelly

The Rev. Frank R. Snavelly, pastor of the Pleasant Hill Community Church since 1959, has resigned effective June 1, 1964, to return to the parish ministry in the Methodist Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Snavelly and their three children, David R., Ross Keith, and Michal Elaine, formerly lived in Cumberland County when Mr. Snavelly was pastor of the Crossville, Tenn., Methodist Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Snavelly have been active in church and community affairs in Pleasant Hill, Tenn., and the larger community of the area. They will be missed from our midst.

\* \* \* \*

### Kentucky - Tennessee Senior High Conference

The Kentucky - Tennessee Senior High Summer Conference will be held at the United Church of Oak Ridge, Tenn., June 13-19. Cost — \$26. To register, write the United Church, Box 3275, Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Be sure to note the change in dates and place.

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are willing to form a conference (convention) along geographical rather than racial lines.

I am well aware of all the problems involved. Nevertheless, I am convinced our Christian witness must be sure and clear and that we must not break our fellowship with our national organizations.

My own position has been made known many times in the past and was made quite clear at the annual meeting of the convention. I believe that we can and should take this important step of receiving the Negro Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical Churches of the area into the convention for the purpose of forming a new conference. I hope that the annual meeting next year will take this kind of affirmative action.

In the meantime, we all must work together in the program of the convention for the cause of Christ's Kingdom. I would assure every minister and every church of the convention of my earnest desire to continue to be of service in every way possible in the year that lies ahead.

## HERE AND THERE

### Blackwood Church Reports

Rev. Joe H. Brown has accepted the call of the Blackwood Church of Headland, Ala., to become its pastor. The family moved into the church parsonage on March 17.

Mr. Brown previously served the Good Hope Church, Baker, Fla., and a mission church in Crestview, Fla.

The new pastor comes as the first full-time minister of the church. Up to this time the Blackwood Church was yoked with the Christian Hill, Midland City, Ala., and the New Hope, Clio, Ala., churches.

Mr. and Mrs. Brown have three sons, L. G., Rodney, and Joel, 15, 8, and 5, respectively, and two daughters, Rena, 13, and Tosha, 1.

In anticipation of the coming of the new pastor the church remodeled its parsonage. The six-room house has now had three new rooms added to it—a study room, a utility room, and a modern bathroom. A carport also has been added. An additional clothes closet and additional kitchen cabinets were built and the electrical wiring was brought up to date.

Under the leadership of a carpenter, the men of the church did the work of building and finishing the walls of the new rooms.

The Women's Fellowship sponsored the construction of the kitchen cabinets. The Women's Sunday School Class painted the three new rooms.

\* \* \* \*

### SEC Summer Camps

The Kentucky - Tennessee Junior High Camp will be held at Camp Ozone, July 26-August 1.

For further information write to Rev. Annie R. Campbell, Robbins, Tenn.

GA., ALA., S. C., & FLA.

The Junior High and Senior Summer Camps for these areas will be held the week of July 26-August 1 at the Roosevelt State Park, Pine Mountain, Ga.

For information please write to:

Rev. George W. Stone  
2114 64th Blvd.  
Langdale, Alabama

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### Daisy Church Engaged In Many Activities

The Ladies' Guild of the Daisy Congregational Church celebrated its 42nd anniversary with a dinner meeting at Fehn's Restaurant in Chattanooga.

Guest speaker for the meeting was Mrs. Arnold Slater, Missionary Education chairman for the Kentucky-Tennessee Women's Fellowship.

The mission theme, "Southern Asia", was the topic of her talk. This theme was carried out with place mats, napkins, and table decorations.

In the absence of the president, Mrs. Robert Miller, the meeting was presided over by Mrs. Thomas Haile. Other officers include Mrs. Eugene Frazier, secretary; Miss Ora Smith, treasurer; Mrs. Leo Kraemer, historian.

In charge of the program were Mrs. Paul Lewis and Mrs. Claude Pendergrass. Mrs. Ralph Ferry was in charge of arrangements.

Guests present were Mesdames Slater, J. W. Davenport, John Cox, Arthur Allison, and Miss Sandra Pendergrass.

A group of the ladies of Daisy Congregational Church have been spreading their spring cleaning to include the church. They have met for four consecutive Wednesdays, brought along their lunch and cleaned the nursery, primary, kindergarten, and junior Sunday school rooms. New curtains have been made, tables, chairs, baby beds, and play pens and walls have been painted. A rocking chair, baby bed, and other articles have been donated. The Ladies' Guild is giving a shower for the nursery to accumulate needed supplies and toys, and the Guild has bought and laid two new rugs.

The large Senior High Sunday School room has been remodeled and painted by the young people with sofa, lamp, and tables all donated, refinished and covered by the young people with the help of Mr. and Mrs. Norris Clift and Mr. and Mrs. John Cox. This room will serve as a Sunday School class room and Pilgrim Fellowship meeting room.

The young people and counselors have also painted the large Educational Room and kitchen.

The Pilgrim Fellowship of the Daisy Congregational Church celebrated Valentine's Day with a "Sweetheart Party" at the Lodge on the lake at Camp

### United Church President Will Speak At Montgomery

The Rev. Dr. Ben M. Herbster, president of the United Church of Christ, will speak at the dedication service for the new structure to be used by the new United Congregational Church in Montgomery, Ala.

The service will be held at 3:00 p. m. (Central Standard Time), on Sunday, May 24. The building is located at 3210 Woodley Road on the southside of the Southern by-pass in Montgomery.

The building is a "shell house" that later can be converted into a regular house and used either as the parsonage or sold.

It is an honor for the church and for the convention to have Dr. Herbster present on this occasion. All of the churches and ministers in the area are invited to attend.

Rev. Harold C. Henderson, newly elected moderator of the convention, is the pastor of the new congregation. The church is about two years old.

Dixie.

Mr. and Miss Pilgrim Fellowship were chosen by popular vote and presented an award. These two young people are Miss Carolyn Dobbs and Mr. Jerry Sanders.

The party was sponsored by the Ladies' Guild, and an appointed committee consisting of Mesdames Paul Lewis, Claude Pendergrass, James Carden, and James Sanders prepared and served refreshments.

Guests were Rev. and Mrs. Raymond Ashley. Youth counselors are Mr. and Mrs. Norris Clift.

Attending the Southeast Convention Pilgrim Fellowship annual meeting in Atlanta were Misses Joy Yarnell, Ruth Blackburn, Carolyn Dobbs, Janice Pendergrass, Connie Orr, Ann Frazier, Sue Frazier, and Darlene Millsaps; Messrs. Jerry Sanders, Jim Clift, Gene Clift, Ronnie Cox, Mike Cox, Jerrald Alexander, Buddy Sundstrom, David Loftes, and Gary Millsaps. The young people were accompanied by their counselors, Mr. and Mrs. Norris Clift.

Other volunteer chauffeurs were Mr. and Mrs. Dillard Blackburn, Mr. R. C. Webb, and Mrs. Margie Sundstrom.

Mrs. Paul Lewis

Mrs. Claude Pendergrass



The Candlelighting Service at Mt. Olive Church on Easter Sunday night. L to R: Douglas Bruce and Billy Curlee.

### Mt. Olive Supporting Church Building Fund

Since 1962 all financial interests at Mt. Olive Church, Tallahassee, Ala., have centered on the building fund effort. From an original amount of but \$200.00 the congregation has watched the fund rise steadily to the \$7,500.00 mark. Since the project was initiated by the pastor, the Rev. John W. Wilder, there has been a concerted effort by all members to raise funds for a new house of worship.

For the present year the goal has been set at \$3,500.00. This money comes from regular offerings and special gifts as well as church projects sponsored mainly by the Women's Fellowship of the church. A program of making a special drive on each fifth Sunday has met with heartening success.

March 29th, Easter Sunday, was the second fifth Sunday in the year. On that day offerings and gifts totaling \$1,080.00 were received. At the night service a special memorial program was held. In it, members of the church and past members dedicated gifts to the fund in memory of those who had attended the church in their own lifetime. Each person was remembered by the lighting of a candle.

The shimmering lights of the candles and the words of the short sermon united to give a lasting impression of satisfaction to all in attendance.

Mrs. Roy Culpepper  
Reporter

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## 1964 Annual Meeting Southeast Convention Pilgrim Fellowship

Atlanta, Georgia